



## **CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands**

##### **SECTION 1. PURPOSE:**

- This document has been prepared by staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) to provide clarification to the public on questions raised with respect to the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waivers.
- No regulation is either expressed or intended. Persons who discharge waste or propose to discharge waste to waters of the State are required to comply with the Water Code.
- This Fact Sheet may be revised from time to time, as appropriate.

##### **SECTION 2. WHAT THE WATER CODE REQUIRES:**

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (found in California Water Code, Division 7) is very broad in scope. The California Water Code regulates any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the State. The term "waste" is very broadly defined and the term "waters of the state" includes all surface water and groundwater within the State. The California Water Code applies to point sources and non-point sources. Persons who discharge waste (dischargers) can be regulated by the Water Board in several ways, including, for example, through prohibitions of discharge, waste discharge requirements (a permit), or a waiver of waste discharge requirements (individual or general). The Central Valley Water Board has adopted the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waivers to provide one way for dischargers to comply with the California Water Code.

##### **What is a "discharge"?**

A discharge would occur when any amount of wastewater that leaves your property enters surface waters of the State. The discharge does not have to be directly to surface water. For purposes of this program, it may first flow over a neighbor's property or through a toe drain along the edge of the field.

##### **Who is a "discharger"?**

A discharger may include persons, individuals, corporations, cities, special districts, farm owners, or tenant farmers who release waste that could affect the quality of the water of the State.